

Appl. No. 10/695,715
Amdt. dated Aug. 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 15, 2004
Page 9

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 5-8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 are amended. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 4, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stevenson et al. (US 4,424,551). Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4, 13 and 15 rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson et al. (US 4,424,551). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson et al. (4,424,551) in view of Stevenson et al. (US 6,275,369). Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16 rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claims 5-8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to these claims. Applicants further assert that, in rewriting claims 5-8, 11, 12, 14 and 17 in independent form, applicants merely address matters of form, do not narrow the scope of these claims, and hereby give notice that equivalents to each of the elements of these claims have not been surrendered.

Appl. No. 10/695,715
Amdt. dated Aug. 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 15, 2004
Page 10

Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 18, 2004
Date

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